



*formerly the
Wisconsin Innkeepers Association*

Serving the lodging
industry for more than
100 years

February 22, 2012

To: Senate Committee on Insurance and Housing
Senator Frank Lasee, Chairman
From: Trisha A. Pugal, CAE
President, CEO
RE: **Opposition to SB 482**

On behalf of the over 750 hotels, motels, resorts, inns, and bed and breakfasts in our membership, the Wisconsin Hotel & Lodging Association respectfully asks you to oppose SB 482.

As we represent the considerable diversity of lodging properties renting rooms, units, cottages and homes to the public, we are keenly aware of the need to provide fairness to all properties and to protect the safety of overnight guests.

The vacation homes in our membership are required to be licensed by the state, as we feel this provides the basic safety checks and balances the public expects when renting lodging of any type. It also protects the owner in demonstrating their efforts to provide for public safety and encourages the proper retention of insurance for liability protection. We do not feel that residential dwelling rentals, vacation home rentals, or any rental of overnight lodging to the public should be exempt from inspections and licensing.

In addition, by exempting these facilities from the definition of any type of lodging, they are exempt from any local Room Tax, which all other lodging properties must collect and remit to the municipality to help pay for marketing and other services for travelers that would also be staying at the residential dwelling rental. They should pay their portion like every other lodging property, as they share the same benefits.

Please re-consider this proposal and oppose SB 482. Thank-you

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